



United States Department
of Agriculture

National Agricultural
Statistics Service

Washington Agricultural Statistics Service
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Washington Crop Weather

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Week Ending: September 21, 2003
CWP WA-CW3803

Golden Delicious Apple Harvest in Full Swing in Chelan County Soil Fumigation Underway for Next Year's Potato Crop

Field Crops

Winter wheat seeding continued to be the main field operation around the Palouse. Potatoes continued to be harvested in the Basin and some fields were being fumigated for next year's crop. In Skagit County, verticillium and thrips were spotted in potatoes. Christmas tree growers began removing stakes from Noble fir leaders. Corn silage harvest was well underway. In Kittitas County, second cutting timothy hay neared completion while some acreage was being seeded following corn tillage.

Livestock

Recent rainfall has helped range and pasture condition somewhat, but more precipitation is needed. Some livestock producers in Kittitas and Stevens County were shipping calves to market. Range and pasture conditions were 2% very poor, 32% poor, 50% fair, and 16% good.

Fruits and Vegetables

Sweet corn harvest started early in the week in Grays Harbor County, with reports of above average yields. U-Pick pumpkin operations continued preparing fields for opening the first of October for retail sales. Blueberry growers in Thurston County removed irrigation lines and mowed permanent cover crops between rows. In Chelan County, apple harvest continued at a high rate, with Golden Delicious as the major variety of the week. Also around the Yakima Valley, grape and winter pear harvest continued.

Days Suitable for Fieldwork

Week	Days
This Week	6.5
Last Week	5.4

Moisture and Supply

Item	Percent			
	VS	SH	AD	S
Topsoil	25	35	40	0
Subsoil	13	34	53	0
Irrigation Water	4	9	87	0
Hay & Roughage	1	5	82	12

VS=Very Short SH=Short AD=Adequate S=Surplus

Crop Progress

Crop/Activity	Percent Completed			
	This Week	Last Week	2002	5 Yr. Avg.
Winter Wheat Planted	55	45	67	59
Winter Wheat Emerged	24	NA	41	32
Potatoes Harvested	50	49	69	46
Corn Silage Harvested	43	18	25	36
Dry Edible Beans Harvested	65	55	33	36
Alfalfa Hay 3rd Cutting	98	96	100	99

Crop Condition*

Crop	% Acreage				
	VP	P	F	G	EX
Potatoes	0	0	28	68	4
Corn	0	1	7	92	0

VP=Very Poor P=Poor F=Fair G=Good EX=Excellent
* Crop conditions are a measurement of the growing conditions and are not indicative of the quality of the crop produced.

COUNTY COMMENTS

Western

Grays Harbor: Cooler temperatures with isolated rain showers were providing a seamless transition from the hot, dry days of summer to the brisk days of autumn. Sweet corn harvest began early in the week with reports of above average yields. By the end of the month, nearly 1,500 acres will have been harvested. Field corn (for livestock feed) harvest also began. Native deciduous trees and shrubs continued to display vibrant fall colors that provide ribbons of color across the rural landscape. U-Pick pumpkin growers reported new varieties were coloring nicely for the U-Pick sales slated to begin October 1. Christmas tree growers began removing stakes from Noble fir leaders. Commercial dahlia growers continued to report tremendous infestations of spotted cucumber beetles. Home gardeners reported that this year has been the best year for tomato production in a decade!

Grays Harbor/Lewis: Corn harvest was in full swing. Small grain harvest was in the final stages after a 10 day lay-off due to rain.

Kitsap: Area pumpkin and squash yields were expected to be excellent this fall.

Pierce/South King: There were no unusual conditions to report, including no crop damage due to weather. Things were greening up in the South Puget Sound area. It's about time!

Skagit: Harvest continued on several crops. Verticillium and powdery mildew were reported on pumpkin and squash.

Verticillium and thrips were seen in potatoes. Home gardeners were seeing a high level of blossom end rot in tomatoes, presumably due to dry conditions, leading to erratic soil moisture content. Gardeners were also reporting drought symptoms in many plants, particularly trees and shrubs and perennial species.

Snohomish/King: Summer was wrapping up and cooler temperatures tell us fall is upon us. Corn silage was well underway. Non-irrigated yields were lower than normal. Corn mazes and pumpkin patches were busy getting ready to entertain their guests. Recent rain helped revive the pastures a little. River levels rose slightly, but more precipitation is needed.

Thurston: Cool temperatures with light rain showers throughout the week continued to help alleviate drought conditions throughout the county. Organic vegetable growers were pleased that their crops have not had a killing frost yet. U-Pick pumpkin growers continued preparing fields for retail sales which open on the first of October. Blueberry growers were removing irrigation lines from fields and mowing permanent cover crops between rows. Turfgrass growers continued plowing and preparing new fields for fall seeding. Christmas tree growers began removing leader stakes from Noble fir. Home gardeners continued to enjoy a bounty of produce from their vegetable gardens.

Whatcom: Much needed rain was received a couple of days during the week. Potato harvest continued. Corn silage harvest continued slowly.

Central

Benton: No crop losses were reported from damaged crops. Grapes and apple harvests continued.

Chelan: Apple harvest continued at a high rate, with Golden Delicious as the major variety of the week. Forty percent of the Red Delicious crop will begin harvest this week and will continue for about the next three weeks. Other varieties will be harvested through October and into early November. Quality looked good, but yields have been slightly lower than estimates. Winter pear harvest continued, but will be completed soon.

Douglas/Chelan: Pear harvest continued. Gala apple harvest was complete. Harvest for Red Delicious and Golden Delicious apples was beginning. Several thousand acres of winter wheat were reseeded in Douglas County due to the rain. Some cattle were being culled because of pasture losses. Some livestock producers gave supplemental feed to their cattle because of dry pasture conditions. One irrigation district cut back water usage in Chelan County.

Franklin: Temperatures were cooler during the week. Potatoes, sweet corn, carrots, and dry beans were being harvested. Apples and pears were being picked. Soil fumigation was underway for next year's potato crop.

Grant: The fourth cutting of alfalfa was 75 percent complete. Fumigation began.

Kittitas: The second cutting of timothy hay was 70 percent complete. Some producers were shipping calves and a few producers have begun weaning. Current conditions were good for grass growth on irrigated pastures. Timothy seeding, following corn tillage, began on some acreage.

Kittitas (2nd Report): The second cutting of timothy hay was near completion. Sweet corn harvest ended, with average yields obtained. Range and pasture conditions were stressed. Potato harvest will begin soon. Pear harvest continued.

Yakima: Apple harvest was progressing very nicely. Golden Delicious and Jonagold apple harvest was winding down, limited to high elevation blocks. Fruit quality was very nice. Labor help was adequate so far.

Yakima (2nd Report): Average temperatures varied from 9 degrees below normal to 5 degrees above normal, with no precipitation. No new crop losses due to weather conditions were reported.

Eastern

Adams: Winter wheat seeding was nearly complete and about 40 percent emerged.

Adams (2nd Report): Winter wheat reseeded moved ahead for some producers, while others waited for the inevitable flush of cheat grass after the earlier rains. Emerged wheat looked good. Hay cutters appreciated the warm weather which speeded drying time. Potatoes were being dug throughout the county. Some alfalfa seed was also harvested.

Asotin/Garfield: The rain in early September provided good seeding conditions in most of Asotin County, and in approximately 50 percent of Garfield County. The other 50 percent of Garfield County needs additional rain for proper establishment of winter wheat. Seeding was in full swing in areas that received adequate rain. Some farmers were waiting for more rain prior to seeding.

Lincoln: Winter wheat seeding was winding down for the majority of the county and about 30 percent has emerged.

Pend Oreille/Spokane: Both counties had typical summer/fall weather during the week. On Wednesday, a thunderstorm rolled through parts of the counties dropping small amounts of rain and hail. Other than that, very little precipitation has fallen since

May. Pasture conditions continued to be very poor, and supplemental feeding was occurring. A little more seeding of winter wheat was taking place on summer fallow ground but not on recrop. Growers were concerned about having enough moisture to carry the plants if they sprout.

Stevens: Rain was received a couple of times during the week. Pastures were showing a surprising amount of new green growth. Calves were beginning to move to market at good prices.

Walla Walla: The area was greening up due to the rain received during the week. Fall seeding was in full swing. The weather remained cool.

Whitman: Fieldwork continued throughout most of the week. Seeding of winter wheat was in full swing in the western portion of the county, but just beginning in the eastern half. The area still needs more rainfall.

Whitman (2nd Report): Cooler temperatures prevailed, but after a rainy start to the month, precipitation has been elusive. Winter wheat seeding has been going steady in the western end of the county, with some operations wrapping things up. Eastern and central producers were just getting the drills hooked up to tractors and getting ready to roll.

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Weekly Weather Statistics September 22, 2003

Station	Air Temperature				Growing Degree Days				Last Week Precipitation			Season Precipitation				
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	Base 50F		Base 60F		Total			Total		% Normal	Days	
					TOT	DFN	TOT	DFN	Inches	DFN	Days	Inches	DFN			
WEST																
Bellingham	39	71	55	-3	36	-15	1	-6	0.56	0.09	4	0.68	-0.58	54	6	
Everett	44	72	56	-2	43	-11	0	-7	0.51	0.00	3	0.71	-0.72	50	7	
Hoquiam	42	68	56	-5	44	-25	1	-13	0.55	-0.25	3	2.94	0.88	143	9	
Kelso	41	73	57	-4	53	-18	2	-14	0.00	-0.56	0	0.00	-1.57	0	0	
Olympia	38	76	57	-1	50	-2	3	-4	0.51	-0.04	4	1.22	-0.25	83	9	
Sea-Tac	47	74	57	-3	54	-17	2	-12	0.05	-0.41	3	0.48	-0.77	38	8	
Shelton	40	77	57	-3	51	-16	3	-11	0.58	-0.08	4	1.12	-0.58	66	9	
Tacoma	37	72	56	-3	48	-16	5	-5	0.45	-0.02	4	1.37	0.07	105	9	
Vancouver	44	77	60	1	69	2	7	-7	0.21	-0.28	2	1.04	-0.32	76	6	
CENTRAL																
Ellensburg	37	75	56	-3	44	-14	1	-14	0.00	-0.14	0	0.00	-0.40	0	0	
Omak	33	78	57	0	52	-4	4	-10	0.09	-0.10	2	0.35	-0.26	57	4	
Stampede Pass	36	63	47	-2	2	-15	0	0	1.58	0.76	3	4.51	2.29	203	8	
Wenatchee	45	75	59	-4	68	-22	7	-24	0.00	-0.07	0	0.00	-0.31	0	0	
Yakima AP	33	80	56	-5	46	-26	4	-18	0.00	-0.07	0	0.05	-0.26	16	1	
NORTHEAST																
Colville	37	80	55	-2	38	-11	4	-7	0.00	-0.28	0	0.56	-0.28	67	2	
Deer Park	31	74	50	-9	12	-49	0	-17	0.04	-0.17	1	1.27	0.64	202	3	
Spokane AP	36	73	54	-4	33	-28	3	-15	0.03	-0.11	1	0.58	0.03	105	3	
EAST CENTRAL																
Ephrata	45	79	60	-4	75	-21	13	-23	0.00	-0.12	0	0.21	-0.06	78	1	
Moses Lake	41	79	59	-6	62	-34	6	-30	0.01	-0.11	1	0.19	-0.08	70	2	
Quincy	42	78	59	-3	63	-16	9	-16	0.00	-0.07	0	0.07	-0.27	21	1	
Ritzville	36	77	55	-6	34	-33	0	-19	0.00	-0.14	0	0.43	0.05	113	2	
SOUTHEAST																
Hanford	43	82	60	-7	73	-46	10	-44	0.00	-0.07	0	0.24	-0.02	92	1	
Pasco	38	82	60	-4	72	-23	11	-25	0.01	-0.06	1	0.24	-0.03	89	2	
Pullman	34	72	54	-4	30	-27	2	-13	0.04	-0.18	1	0.92	0.28	144	5	
Whitman Miss.	37	82	58	-3	60	-15	3	-21	0.01	-0.13	1	1.26	0.84	300	4	
ID PANHANDLE																
Coeur D'A' AP	36	73	53	-7	31	-38	1	-18	0.31	0.03	1	1.39	0.55	165	4	
Lewiston ID	43	80	61	-3	77	-17	16	-22	0.06	-0.08	1	1.05	0.49	188	4	

Summary based on NWS data.
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Wednesday September 1, 2002
 DFN = Departure From Normal (Using 1961-90 Normals Period).
 NA = Data Unavailable

Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.
 Precipitation Days = Days with precip of 0.01 inch or more.
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.
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